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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/930,721	08/15/2001	Max Douglas Oyler	9D-DW-19866	1672

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John S. Beulick
Armstrong Teasdale LLP
One Metropolitan Sq., Suite 2600
St. Louis, MO 63102

EXAMINER

WILKENS, JANET MARIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3637

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/930,721

Applicant(s)

OYLER ET AL.

Examiner

Janet M. Wilkens

Art Unit

3637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5 and 7-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5 and 7-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☒ Other: revised Attachment B.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 8-10, 14, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hughes et al. Hughes teaches an outer door panel (Fig. 1; see revised Attachment B) for a dishwasher comprising: a frame (1) with lateral sides (2), a top edge (8) and a bottom edge (9), an outer surface (3) extending from the frame and including a bowed portion (5) between the sides and edges and an angled recessed control panel/mounting surface (4) extending from the outer surface and between the lateral sides and edges. The outer surface has a portion which extends between the control panel/mounting surface and the top edge of the frame (at 6). Furthermore, the outer door panel is attached to an inner panel (7).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 3-5, 7, 11-13, 16 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hughes et al in view of Cracraft et al. As stated above, Hughes teaches the limitations of claims 1, 8-10, 14, 15, and 17, including a door panel having an outer surface with a recessed control panel/mounting surface. For claims 3, 5, 11, 12, 16, 19 and 21, Hughes fails to teach that the panel/surface(s) includes a cutout with an escutcheon therein. Cracraft teaches an appliance (Fig. 1) having a surface which contains a cutout (48) with a plastic escutcheon (14) received therein. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the door panel of Hughes by using a specific control means therein, i.e. using the control panel provided by Cracraft therein instead of the means presently shown, depending on the desired need of the person constructing the panel. Furthermore, these control panels are functional equivalents and either would work equally well in the door of Hughes.

For claims 4, 13, and 20, Hughes fails to teach that the outer surface of the door is specifically made of metal. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention make the door out of any of a number of different materials, including metal, depending on the desired need of the person designing/constructing the appliance, e.g. for aesthetic reasons, depending on the material readily available, etc.

For claims 7 and 18, Hughes fails to teach that the outer surface of the door is unitary. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention make the door using one member only (combining sections a and

b; see revised Attachment B), depending on the desired need of the person designing/constructing the door, e.g. for aesthetic reasons, to simplify assembly, etc.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed October 27, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that Hughes fails to teach the outer surface as claimed: the examiner contends that Hughes does teach the outer surface as claimed, as shown by number 3 in revised Attachment B. The outer surface, which is comprised of members a,b, does including a portion 6 that extends between the control mounting surface 4 and the top edge 8 of the frame/panel. What applicant describes as the "control panel", the examiner is defining as the top portion 8 of the frame, part of the outer surface 3 and the recessed control mounting surface 4. Please note that the frame and surfaces together make up the door panel. For claim 17, the examiner argues that the outer surface portion surrounding the recessed control mounting surface need not be bowed necessarily. The bowed portion of the bowed outer surface need not make up the entire portion of the outer surface. As shown in Hughes, its bowed outer surface includes a portion which is bowed at 5 and includes another portion which surrounds the recessed control mounting surface 4.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references: the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention

where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Cracraft is being used only for its teaching of a control panel. Hughes, as shown in Fig. 1, teaches a "generic" control panel wherein Cracraft teaches a specific control panel which would be an obvious alternate/specific type of control panel to use on the door panel of Hughes.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

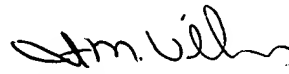
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janet M. Wilkens whose telephone number is (703) 308-2204. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (703) 308-2486. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Wilkens
January 4, 2005


JANET M. WILKENS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 3637

